DARYL FOX: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's webinar, OVC FY 2024 Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking, hosted by the Office for Victims of Crime. At this time, it's my pleasure to introduce Cindy Erich, Senior Policy Advisor with OVC, to being the presentation. Cindy?

CYNTHIA ERICH: Great. Thank you, Daryl. Again, my name is Cindy Erich. I am a Senior Policy Advisor with the Human Trafficking Division in the Office for Victims of Crime. We are so pleased that you're joining us today which--to receive an overview of the OVC FY 24 Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking solicitation. Today, we will talk about OVC's mission, the solicitation, including the opportunity's focus, eligibility, and required documents. Then I will discuss briefly the application process and resources, and we will have ample time to answer your questions at the end of the presentation. However, as Daryl mentioned, you can put your questions into the Q&A at any time. I do have colleagues here that will be helping to address those questions as they come in, but there will be time saved at the end of the presentation that we will address all of them. If you--it's important to have the solicitation--to be following along with that, take notes as we are going through the application process, jot down the notes and follow along. It'll save you a lot of time when you are submitting your application on time.

So a little bit about the Office for Victims of Crime which is part of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Program. We administer the Crime Victims Fund, which is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, and not from tax dollars. We channel that money towards victim compensation and assistance throughout the United States. We raise awareness about victims' issues, promote compliance with victims' rights laws, and provide training and technical assistance and publications and products to victim assistance professionals. This funding supports formula programs to state, territories, and tribes, as well as many OVC discretionary grant programs for victims of crime.

Little bit about our division, the Human Trafficking Division, we lead the nation in supporting crime-centered and trauma-informed programs, policies, and resources that promote justice, equal access, and empowerment for minor and adult victims and survivors of human trafficking. Our office manages the largest amount of federal funding for human trafficking victims' service awards across the federal government. We currently oversee 465 anti-trafficking awards totaling over $400 million. They range the gamut from direct services for trafficking survivors to multi-disciplinary teams including law enforcement and prosecutors, to statewide responses to child and youth trafficking, and of course our training and technical assistance. Under the leaderships of Brecht Donoghue and Sara Gilmer, the Human Trafficking Division is a small but mighty team of passionate professionals dedicated to enhancing anti-trafficking stakeholders' capacity to identify, assist, and provide services to all victims of trafficking. We have several solicitations currently open and soon to be opening, so please be sure to check our funding opportunities page often. And if you have a program that provides services primarily to youth, you are in the right place. This is an Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking solicitation.

Before we dig into this solicitation, please mark your calendars with these dates. I'm going to mention them several times throughout today's presentation but these are vitally important. The Grants.gov deadline for this solicitation is April 8th at 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time and the JustGrants deadline is April 22nd at 8:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. So again, we'll go over exactly what that means, why there are two deadlines, there's this Grants.gov deadline, the JustGrants deadline. And with all of that, we do expect awards to be made by September 30th, 2024. These are 36-month awards anticipated to begin on October 1st. So I just threw a lot of dates and deadlines at you; which we will go through them, again, throughout this presentation and they are on the solicitation multiple times, so do, again, mark your calendars.

This is a competitive solicitation and we've managed this initiative through several years, and it is a very competitive solicitation. Here are a list of entities who are eligible to apply. You'll see it is quite inclusive. For the purposes of this solicitation, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marina Islands. Please reference page 12 for more information on eligible applicants.

We will consider applications under which two or more entities would carry out the federal award. However, it's important that only one entity is the main applicant. Others must be proposed as subrecipients or subgrantees and the applicant must be the entity and would have primary responsibility for carrying out the award.

With this solicitation, OVC will fund up to $950,000 each, up to 13 awards to enhance the quality and quantity of services available to assist the minor victims of human trafficking as defined by the Trafficking Victim Protections Act of 2000 as amended, by providing services that are developmentally-appropriate and tailored to the individual needs of young trafficking victims. Eligibility for services under this grant is limited to victims who were trafficked and began receiving services while under the age of 18. However, it is important to note that recipient of services can extend beyond the age of 18 as needed, as long as they were receiving services while under the age of 18. Services may also extend to the victim's children, supportive parents, caregivers, sponsors, and guardians if these services are identified as impacting the minor's safety, security, and healing. Organizations funded under this program will be expected to implement developmentally-appropriate and evidence-based practices widely accepted in other child and youth-serving systems.

Look closely on page nine of the solicitation for the goal. Again, as I've already mentioned, it is important that the program--the goal of this program is to provide services that address the needs of minor victims of sex and labor trafficking through a continuum of trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and gender-responsive services to ensure their safety, security, and healing, and to prevent them from being directed or involved in the justice system. We encourage applicants to propose and implement intentional and sustainable engagement from individuals with lived experience and/or

members of impacted communities to enhance their anti-trafficking programming. In addition to encouraging use to--of a shared decision-making model, OVC promotes the use of evidence-based and evidence-informed practices when working with children and youth victims of crime.

The objectives if this program are outlined on this slide as well as on page nine through eleven of the solicitation and includes the following: providing services to meet the individualized needs of minor victims, collaborating with local partners. Now this can be service providers, criminal and juvenile justice, and child welfare professionals, members of the judiciary, community- and faith-based organizations. This is all to ensure that minor victims of sex and labor trafficking are properly identified, responded to, and provided with appropriate services across all system stakeholders.

Another objective is to establish community-based intervention between the outreach and education to develop a continuum of care that addresses the specific needs of each victim. And providing other essential services for minor victims of sex and labor trafficking, either directly or through referrals. And this can include emergency interventions; long-term interventions, which ranges from provision of food, clothing, drop-in shelters, healthcare, direct services that address the immediate need; to the long-term interventions to include job training, life skills, education, and other direct services that are victim-centered, survivor-led, and culturally-responsive. In our solicitation, under appendix A, you can see all of the types of services funded by OVC.

And finally, we will be asking selected applicants to collect data and participate in assessment activities determine--to determine if the program is meeting the stated goals and objectives. Again, I'm going to say this a lot. As you've already heard, the services must be victim-centered, trauma-informed, and developmentally-appropriate. We are looking for partnerships that incorporate a holistic community approach. Those are all widely encouraged.

You'll also see throughout the solicitation references to our priority considerations. We will--through the Office of Justice Programs, we are providing priority considerations when making award decisions based on the following. Under priority consideration 1A, these are applications that propose projects that are designed to meaningfully advance equity and remove barriers to assess--accessing services and opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely impacted by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. To receive this consideration, please describe how your proposed project will address the identified inequities and contribute to greater access to services and opportunities for communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. This could include and certainly is not limited to improving victim services, justice responses, prevention initiatives, reentry services in other parts of an organization or community efforts to advance public safety.

To receive priority consideration under 1B, applicants that demonstrate their capabilities and competencies for implementing their proposed projects are enhanced because they--or one of your proposed subrecipients that will receive at least 40% of your requested awarded funding--so let me say that again because that was a lot, that was a lot of information in one sentence. So if your agency has the capability and competency for implementing the proposed project as enhanced, which I'll get to in a second, or your subrecipient who will be receiving at least 40% of a--of the full award as a subgrant or subaward, if they are demonstrated as a project-specific organization that serves communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality, and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. So in the capabilities and competencies sections, that's where 1B would be noted. Please be sure to note in your application abstract, if you are requesting this priority consideration, again, in the abstract, which is the beginning of the application, it's the overview, please include if you are going for priority consideration 1A, 1B, or both. And then detail that within your narrative, which I'll get to in a moment.

Please also note this is just one of the many factors that we consider in making our funding decisions. Unfortunately, the need for this is great and we are limited and the competition is quite fierce. So this is one area that we will consider and it does not guarantee an award.

The project deliverables refer to outputs that we will be expecting from our selected grantee--or accepted applicant. These would be tangible, for example, a report or website, or intangible reports from the--your clients or reported feelings of safety from the community. These need to be documented and submitted within the scope of the project and should include timelines. For this specific project, we are looking for services measured by quarterly service hour or units delivered, the type of service provided to your clients, and other key data points. Award recipients will be required to submit their performance measure data in the Performance Measurement Tool, also known as our PMT, and separately submit a semi-annual performance report in JustGrants. Should you be selected and awarded this funding, there will be ample guidance, opportunities, and training to walk you through the performance measurement data process.

So now, a better--with a little better understanding of the intention of the program, let's jump into the application process. As I mentioned, these are the dates to remember. I mentioned this earlier, April 8th is the Grants.gov deadline. April 22nd is the JustGrants deadline. All awards are expected to be made no later than September 30th, and you will have a start date if your grant is selected--if your application is selected, and you will begin on October 1st. Noting also, we do--there is a bit of time in reviewing the budget applications and getting them approved. So once you are accepted and--you will have to wait to begin work until the budget and the application is fully reviewed and you receive official approval by OJP.

So just to meet the basic minimum requirements, this will be the first step in the application review process and this first step would then lead into our peer review

process. To even receive consideration for funding, your application must have all of the following elements: your SF-424, SF-LLL, all of your lobbying and your disclosures, your proposal abstract, your proposal narrative, and the budget web-based form, including your budget details and project narrative. So then these are the required documentations. And there's--there are many other as applicable attachments for inclusion, which we'll get into as well. Please remember, if you fail to submit any of these required documents, your application will not be considered for funding. So that's why we're so glad that you are joining us today to go through this, to walk through the process, to mark down those dates in your calendars, and to get a head start on everything that this will take to get submitted to us for our review.

So we'll spend a minute or two on the budget, the web-based form. This counts as 10% of the merit criteria. This will be completed in the JustGrants web-based form. And we ask that you break out costs by year to reflect the 36-month total of project activity. So you will have the opportunity to put in across the 36 months. This is three years total, thirty-six months total across--so your full budget across those thirty-six months. You'll complete the JustGrants web-based budget form. For additional information, you can see our OJP Grant Application Resource Guide. And to complete the application and JustGrants budget training, we're going to have links to all of these trainings. This webinar is being recorded and will be saved, so you'll have links and all of the information. But to complete the application and JustGrants budget training is the best place to go for step-by-step guidance on how to do the submission of the JustGrants web-based budget worksheet.

When thinking about your budget, it is really important to know what we will not and cannot support with grant funds. First is holding beds, and what we mean by this, grantees may not hold a bed for--in a housing facility by charging their costs to the grant and keeping these beds empty until a victim needs the bed. Once other victims need access to those beds, this would be considered unallowable—an unallowable contingency payment. So you may not hold beds in a housing facility by charging costs to that grant and keeping them empty.

You may not support with grant funds, stipends, or incentives to participants and services. And what we mean by this, you cannot use cash or non-cash stipends or incentives paid to victims to encourage their participation in services. So you can't pay them to get services. Now, you can--and we often know that immediate needs require some nominal non-cash or non-cash stipend. This can include taxi or rideshare vouchers, public transportation tickets or tokens, money for childcare or gift cards for meals that are necessary when participants receive services. That is allowable, but incentivizing them to participate with cash or non-cash stipends is not.

And then primary prevention activities, there is one award that we do—that we can use for prevention activities, that is our Preventing Trafficking of Girls solicitation. That is not this. The purpose of this funding is to support victim service programs. Therefore, applicants should not promote primary prevention activities under this specific program.

And you'll also see the match, we get a lot of questions about the match when it comes to budget. Really do follow the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide, and then complete the application and JustGrants budget training. This will really help make this a lot more understandable. The solicitation requires a 25% cash or in-kind match. That means that federal funded awards under this solicitation requiring a match may not cover more than 75% of the total cost of the project being funded. And a lot more--there will be a lot more information in the solicitation, and it includes the exact formula that you should use to determine the amount of match required for your project. Again, the 25% match is calculated as 25% of the total project budget, including matching funds. It is not 25% of the amount you are requesting for a federal award. We also see applicants who are confused by this and who accidentally underestimate the match because they did not use the formula in the solicitation. So please, the formulas on this page, it's in the--excuse me, it's in the solicitation and it's on all our budget training, so follow those for guidance, and also on page 23 for--of the solicitation about how to calculate the match, as well as all necessary financial attachments.

Beginning on page 24, look closely at the list. We covered a little bit earlier, those primary requirements, the ones to meet the basic requirements for the solicitation review. But there may be other attachments that are applicable to your agency. Look closely at this list of additional applicant--application components. Be sure to submit all that are applicable to your agency and be sure to reference the application checklist. We do create a checklist at the end of the solicitation. Go through and check off all of those key components and make sure that they are all addressed before you submit by the deadline or well in advance of the deadline.

Again, as I mentioned, the application checklist is a vital component, check that. And then we also have other doc box--other checklists, other resources to aid in your developing--development of your application. The DOJ application submission checklist is the primary one, and we'll have all the links to this in this webinar as a resource for you. The JustGrants quick reference about application attachments, we will include that as well. And then there is a larger application submission job aid covering potential applicants that you may be asked to provide. Again, we will include all of those links for your easy access. They're also listed up here, and they're on our website as you have found the solicitation.

So the process of submitting an application in JustGrants. Again, here are those dates again, those deadlines. Once you've determined--you located your funding opportunity, you know that you are applying for the integrated services for minor victims, you will submit an SF-424 and an SF-LLL in Grants.gov. Those are the two main requirements that you need to do by April 8th. That is the extent of the application process requirements in JustGrants, so submitting those two forms in JustGrants by April 8th. And then we will get into JustGrants, and that's where all of the bulk of the application, all of your narrative will be, but those two forms in JustGrants just to be considered, again, April 8th.

For this deadline, try to submit even 72 hours prior to the deadline to provide you with enough time. If there are errors in your submission of those two forms, and we get those early, it--we can send them back to you and get any technical issues taken care of. So again, try to do that early, as early as possible, and then it'll give you time to resubmit if necessary. It's okay to enter preliminary information in Grants.gov, even if you haven't fully determined your budget or project scope. This is step one and you can do that as soon as possible. You can--and then you'll be able--once you get into JustGrants, you will be able to edit and update your entries, but you can't do any of that until Grants.gov is taken care of.

Okay. So I think--I think I've made that crystal clear. I hope the audience has that--those deadlines down. And once the application has been submitted and validated in Grants.gov, then it's sent to JustGrants for completion. This may take a few days, so keep that in mind. And that's why we don't have one single deadline. We have the April 8th deadline for Grants.gov, and then it gives it time, and then we will complete the validation, and it'll then be released to JustGrants. So that break in between gives us the time to review what's submitted and then--in Grants.gov and then moving it over to grant--JustGrants for final submission.

So, the rest of the application is entered in JustGrants. Your entity information is populated based on entries made in SAM.gov and used in Grants.gov. I'll get to those two sites in--I'll get to the SAM.gov site in a moment. But that is also a critical component of making sure that you are registered with SAM.gov and your information is in there correctly. And this will streamline the process by allowing the ability to use a web-based budget detail worksheet and validation of your budget along the process of clear and making this process much faster. So everything will be entered into JustGrants, and should include all of the items that are required in the solicitation before it is finalized.

Your organization, specifically, your assigned entity administrator, that is the person who controls the users and award assignments. It does not require any intervention from DOJ to make updates to those assignments. It is the entity administrator who has that role. This is--this is also your E-Biz point of contact, but that person can be--can reassign responsibilities to other users as needed. We have--I know this is a broad overview of the entity management role, we have a really, really easy to follow entity management training, and JustGrants will include those links as well.

Again, I know this is a tremendous amount of information. It's, again, why we're so glad that you're here and you're following along with the solicitation. You're taking notes. Everything that I'm saying really is in the solicitation. All those links are available to you. But I hope just listening to this it helps really solidify the importance of this process and what you need to do to get a head start on the application process.

So now, we're going to explore the different resources, again, that are available to you, and information on the other systems that you'll be touching throughout your application process. If--to learn even more about OVC, our history, and our funding, to find projects

and register for upcoming events, here is a link to our website [https://ovc.ojp.gov]. You can also go in and look at--we funded this project--projects in the past several years. You can go back and look at exactly who we funded in fiscal year 2023. You can look at how much we gave to each grantee, their project, there's a brief overview of their abstract, so you can get a sense of what we have historically-funded under this project. That tends to help people as they're thinking about what pieces of their project is allowable. Might even generate some ideas for you, and since you're still early in this process, which is fantastic. So, I do highly recommend getting on our website, getting into our programs under the human trafficking and looking under our previously-funded awards. You'll also see information about our other funded programs in the human trafficking space, areas that we have funded in the past. So there's a lot going on there. I would bookmark our website and come back to us early and often.

This is--next is our Office of Justice Program Grant Application Resource Guide. This provides guidance to assist grantees in preparing and submitting applications. This will be a fabulous resource as well. We do--if you look on our upcoming events, we will be hosting an open listening session on March 18th, with another opportunity for live questions and answers about this specific resource. We'll walk through a little bit about the Resource Guide, and then we will be here to answer any questions that you have. So, look into our--the OVC upcoming webinars, upcoming events, and I'll be there if you have more questions as you're beginning this process. Please join us on the 18th.

This is, as I mentioned, the importance of SAM. And if you're not familiar, if you're not registered, now is the time. This is before you can do anything. This is even before you can get into Grants.gov. So, this--all applicants must register with the System for Award Management. That is what SAM stands for, the System for Award Management. And this is a vital step as registration and renewal can take up to 10 business days to complete. So, I'll say that again, if you're not registered in SAM.gov, it can take up to 10 days. So, I would do that immediately. This is your first stop to applying. This is what you'll need to do before you get into, which we all should know by this point, Grants.gov. And Grants.gov is your first stop in--your first stop in starting--your first stop in starting the application process. Under the application tab, you'll find--in Grants.gov, you'll find training and information on applying with the Grants.gov system and our funding opportunity process. As I mentioned, again, those two deadlines are very important. And this one is April 8th.

And once you do submit in Grants.gov, please keep an eye out for an email confirming that you have successfully submitted. If you do not successfully submit in Grants.gov, you will not be able to complete your JustGrants application. We're going to have contacts at the end. And this is also noted in the solicitation, where you can contact directly if you're having any technical difficulties with Grants.gov or JustGrants. You will have those contacts. You're going to have a phone number and you're going to have an email by the end of this presentation.

The next step is JustGrants. This is intended to be an end-to-end grants management systems that applicants and grantees will use to access and use throughout the grant

cycle from applications. So this is where you will usually be putting in your applications, and if you are select--this is where we review the applications, this is where occupations are selected, and then grant awards are made. So this really is where the life of the grant lives. And we will be working with you closely throughout the life of this award. Beginning now, this is where it starts. So, the training resources in there are step-by-step, there are guides, there are videos, there are a tremendous amount of resources on the JustGrants website at justgrants.usdoj.gov.

Strongly suggest registering for upcoming webinars. They--the JustGrants team hosts four weekly sessions on post-award management, on entity management, as I mentioned, the important role of the entity administrator. Application mechanics, so that's the one, I'm going to show you that in a second. The application mechanics webinar, that's how--the step-by-step guide on submitting an application, this--we offer weekly as a training webinar. And then, when you are selected, if your agency is selected, there is an award acceptance weekly training.

So here are the office hours on application mechanics. This is every Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. These are live virtual sessions. And during--they will discuss everything that you need to know to submit an application. And the next sessions are listed here on this site. I would strongly recommend, again, this is where we'll be working together from beginning until the end is--I would bookmark this page, check back regularly for session date and registration links, so you can--once you successfully submit your forms in Grants.gov and you move seamlessly into JustGrants, this is where we'll begin working once you get the--your application in. So, learn how to use the system, the tools, the resources, and again, I will give you direct contact to real people at the end of the session. So, any questions that you have can be addressed as needed.

Another really, really amazing resource--this is, for now, through the entire life of your award is our JustGrants Financial Guide. This is the primary reference material to assist all award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure funds are used for the purposes in which they were awarded. This has a variety of laws, rules, regulations that affect the financial and administrative management of your award, of references to the underlying laws and regulations have been provided in the guide as much as possible. So this--the link that's on this page, on this slide right here [https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm] takes you directly to our website, and then you'll see the top 10 topics. So you can click on each one, whatever your question is. So you can see we have allowable costs, unallowable costs, I covered some of those today. The reports that would be required, the performance reports that will be required if you are awarded, what an audit will look like, if you'll be hosting conference costs with federal funding, what the requirements are for that, if you need to make any adjustments to your award, if you have subgrantees or subawards, what does that look like? What's the difference between a contract, a subaward, and procurement contract? All of that is in this. So you can go to the web-based--the website, click on these links, or you can download and save the JustGrants Financial Guide PDF to your desktop and keep it at your leisure. So, it is the go-to guide. Again,

this is to protect you, to make sure that these funds are being used as intended. So, keep that as a primary resource as well.

So here it is, this is your contact information. Please start your application process as soon as possible. The application in JustGrants, the technical assistance, you--once you submit, if you have any technical issues, you can contact them at phone, 833-872-5175 or email to JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov. This is on the slide, as well as, in the solicitation, as well as all over our website. So this is--if there's any issues in submitting the application in JustGrants.

Now, if you have questions about the pro--if you have a programmatic question about this specific solicitation, you can contact directly our OJP Response Center at 800-851-3420 or grants@ncjrs.gov. Please request tracking number so you can document that you did seek assistance with your issue. This will be important in the event that you need to document that you had a technical issue that prevented you from submitting the application--I'm sorry, that guidance is for JustGrants. So if you have a JustGrants technical issue, do make sure that you have a tracking number. And the Response Center, they will be able to answer questions about programmatic requirements of the solicitation. If you are a current grantee, we appreciate your understanding that your current grant manager and other OVC staff cannot answer questions about an open solicitation directly. The funding is absolutely competitive and we want to make sure that everyone has an open opportunity that is fair and equitable. So if you're a current grantee, see--and if you have question about the program requirements, please go directly to the OJP Response Center and not your current OVC manager for the purposes of fairness and transparency.

And finally, keep in mind that the OJP Response Center is also who you need to contact within 24 hours of JustGrants or JustGrants solicitation deadlines if you experience other technical issues that prevented your application from being submitted. So, if you were unable to submit, please do note that to the OJP Response Center. And that's why, again, thank you so much for being here. I know there's a--this is a tremendous amount of information. You might feel a little bit saturated, but you're here and you're starting early. Maintain any tracking numbers, any contacts that you have with either the JustGrants technical assistance or the Response Center as you contact us, keep track of that and begin this process early. So again, first step, looking at SAM.gov, making sure you're registered in that, second step, is the Grants.gov deadline, and then the third step, is getting that application in to JustGrants.

So, with that, we continue to stay social with the Office for Victims of Crime. Stay up-to-date with all of our news and happenings by following us, liking us, subscribing to us, and we will--I will--I know my colleague has been answering questions in this Q&A. I'm going to join her now. But once again, the work that you do is vitally important. We respect you and we appreciate you taking time to join us today for your interest in this project, for your interest in the work that you do in this field. So, I'm going to pause here and begin to answer questions. Thank you.

SARA GILMER: Hi, Cindy. This is Sara. I think we're getting through the questions. So, let's pause and give people time to add some more questions in there. Give them a couple more minutes. I think everybody should see the--under the Q&A, the responses that have already been provided. I'm sure some of those responses are relevant to different stakeholders. For the sake of time, we're not going to read them aloud, but I would like to recommend we pause and give people a chance to submit further questions through the Q&A portal.

CYNTHIA ERICH: Sara, I am more than happy to take a water break. If I'll pause see-- as Sara mentioned, we'll look through the questions, I'm sure they're going to generate some for you as well.

SARA GILMER: Okay, Cindy. Some of them--one of the responses got cut off, but can you respond to a question around startups for organizations that aren't serving victims now and won't be serving victims at the beginning, is that allowable? And can grant funds be used to cover capital and startup costs? Can you please respond to that question?

CYNTHIA ERICH: Sure, Sara. Thank you. So regarding the question for a startup in the process of--or that will--with no history of serving victims. So perfect capabilities section of this funding, so of the Integrated Services for Minor Victims of Human Trafficking, applicants are required to demonstrate the institutional experience and expertise or that they have formal agreements with partners with experience and expertise to affect-- effectively implement the requirements of the solicitation. So it's really important to demonstrate in the application that individuals and organizations have the capacity to address the stated needs, including the expertise necessary to successfully implement the proposed project, so if the applicant can do that.

One thing I will mention, as I did previously, is we are going to be funding other awards out of our--out of the Human Trafficking Division, so I would like to suggest that this attendee look at the OVC Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program solicitation. That's going to be released in the next coming weeks. Again, I'll say that again, it's the Housing Assistance Program. This may be more appropriate to your needs, as the purpose of this award is to support organizations that have experience providing housing services, but they have limited or no prior experience serving victims of trafficking, or anti-trafficking organizations that have limited or no prior experience in providing housing services to victims of human trafficking, or organizations that have no prior experience in receiving direct federal funding to serve victims of human trafficking. So I would--I would definitely direct the applicant to look closely at the solicitation requirements of this award as well as the upcoming OVC Anti-Trafficking Housing Assistance Program solicitation.

Now regarding capital and startup costs, equipment and other capital expenditures are allowable with prior written approval of the awarding agency. We do have a list in our--in the allowable cost, which I referenced earlier in the DOJ Financial Guide. It's--chapter 3.8 Prior Approvals in Equipment and Other Capital Expenditures, for more complete

discussion on the requirement and restrictions. So you can apply for equipment and other capital expenditures, but they do need prior approval and close consideration. And there's a lot of guidance in the DOJ Financial Guide. I would suggest to anyone as you're developing your budget, you look closely, very closely, because the three--the three unallowable--that I suggest--that I brought up earlier in the presentation, those are three maintain--pertaining specifically to the solicitation, but there are others for consideration. So look at what is allowable and then unallowable per the DOJ financial guideline. I hope that answers the question.

SARA GILMER: Yes, thank you, Cindy. Cindy, we have a question around providing more detail on what is meant by funding prevention activities and saying that the funding is--that is not the goal of this funding. Can you expand on that a bit? I'll add some in the chat, but maybe it'd be helpful to say it out loud as well.

CYNTHIA ERICH: Sure. Absolutely. So the purpose--as the funding is through TVPA funding--the purpose of the funding is to support victim service programs. So that means we are not looking to propose or fund primary prevention activities under this program. So primary prevention activities are any activities designed to protect individuals prior to victimization. So that would be looking to stop victimization before it occurs, right? So examples might include those focused primarily on crime prevention or other examples or primary prevention. It's just the way that this funding stream is developed, it is intended for victims of crime, not preventing victims of crime. I hope that makes sense.

Now, I will say the training and outreach can--you can do training and outreach, we can fund that using anti-trafficking funding for the primary purpose of identification and referral of victim. And prevention may be an ancillary outcome of that program, so if you're doing training and outreach community, which is fabulous, and you're looking for better identification and referral of victims, minor victims of trafficking, you're certainly going to have ancillary prevention outcomes of that, and that is fine. It's just that if you're--if you propose a project specifically on preventing victimization, we cannot fund that.

We can, and I know I'm back and forth a little bit here, but we can fund prevention on the re-victimizations of trafficking survivors. So, again, if it's just preventing the victim of crime with this funding, we cannot. Now, as I mentioned, we will have another solicitation and "prevention" within the title, so look for that if that is your primary focus, the OVC Preventing Trafficking of Girls solicitation will be opening soon as well. Again, that's OVC FY 24 Preventing Trafficking of Girls. I hope that answered the question.

SARA GILMER: Thank you, Cindy. And I dropped that link as well that has table of all of the different solicitations that are forthcoming or are open to outline those different funding opportunities. There's another question around population-specific. There's no further guidance that can be provided beyond what's in the solicitation. So in the solicitation, it says population-specific organizations are nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal organizations that primarily serve members of a specific underserved population,

and have demonstrated experience and expertise providing targeted services to members to that specific underserved population. That's the definition that was provided in the solicitation.

So I think after responding to that, there are no further questions but we'll give it a couple of minutes maybe if folks have further questions they would like to ask. And we'll also point out that there's a further description of population-specific organizations on page 19 that says it's specifically designed to serve communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, adversely affected by inequality and disproportionately impacted by crime, violence, and victimization. So that is a further description that's available on page 19.

CYNTHIA ERICH: And, Sara, I think I do see one and I believe I'm answering this correctly regarding serving foreign nationals.

SARA GILMER: We…

CYNTHIA ERICH: Foreign national--can you hear me okay?

SARA GILMER: Yep, go ahead.

CYNTHIA ERICH: Did we address that one already?

SARA GILMER: We did. Yes. There's no limitations in the funding on the nationality of clients, but that's a good thing to say aloud.

CYNTHIA ERICH: Great. Thank you. I appreciate that. I couldn't see if it was addressed. All right. Thank you, Sara.

SARA GILMER: Okay. We'll give one more minute. If you have a last burning question, I don't see any other pending questions.

CYNTHIA ERICH: It sounds like we did a good job covering a tremendous amount of information. I'm sure you're digesting it all. You have all the links, the resources for additional questions, you are not alone in this process. Reach out to us, reach out to the Response Center with any programmatic questions, to the JustGrants help desk if there's issues in submitting the application, and in the beginning of this process at Grants.gov, their help desk there, all their--all of that information is in the solicitations. Again, we thank you, we thank you for joining us, and good luck to all. With that, Daryl, I think we're going to close down this solicitation, and this will be recorded and [INDISTINCT] on our website.

SARA GILMER: Cindy, we have--we have one final question that just came through. Is that okay?

CYNTHIA ERICH: Sure. Of course.

SARA GILMER: Yup. And--let's see. There's something about--I don't want to get into specifics because we can't provide specific guidance, but just what happens if someone has an open OVC award, can they apply if they have an open OVC award for this other funding?

CYNTHIA ERICH: Yes, you can apply. It's important--and this is a requirement of the application to disclose that you have another funded award or that you're applying to another award and how this application, how this project, is different, is not duplicative of your currently-funded program.

SARA GILMER: All right. Thank you, Cindy. And someone just got a question in about advice on how to decide. We can't provide you with advice on which solicitation to apply to. I would recommend once again looking at that page where's there's the table of different funding opportunities. I'll put it in the chat one more time, and you're welcome to attend any of the other pre-application webinars, to perhaps hear from others about the program, but we can't provide you guidance on which application is the best fit for your organization. I can't answer the question specifically about if immigrants in general are specific undeserved populations, I would just say look at the definition on page 19 and see if that description fits the community that you are serving. Which, the language on page 19 is detailed and provides a number of different examples of what is being talked about. I think that's it.

DARYL FOX: Okay. Great. So on behalf of the Office for Victims of Crime and our panelists, we want to thank you for joining today's webinar. This will end today's presentation.